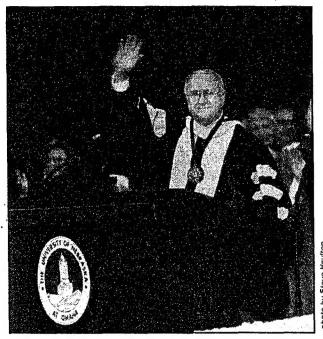
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See You Later, Del



Chancellor Weber giving a farewell wave during spring commencement in May. For a look at Weber through the years see page 5.

Theft of Equipment to **Keep KBUL Off Air for Now**

by Jonathan McDonald

The first broadcast of KBUL, the proposed student radio station at UNO, will be postponed well into the fall said UNO student Joe Hammon, the president of KBUL. He said the station is facing problems caused by confusion over financing and missing equipment which had been set aside from the previous station, KBLZ.

According to Professor Chris Allen, the KBUL faculty advisor, the items missing are ones that could be used in a home stereo system. Turntables, cassette decks, CD players, head phones and microphones are missing said Allen. Hammon said he estimated the cost of replacing the missing equipment to be around \$2,300. Guy Conway, director of Milo Bail Student Center (MBSC), said "Anyone could

have taken the equipment," and possibly "people from off the street" were responsible for the theft.

MBSC officials met with Hammon, Allen, and representatives from the Department of Communication Wednesday to try to resolve the problems caused by the missing equipment and the continuing battle over funding.

In an earlier meeting with a Gateway reporter, Hammon said he believed everything was going fine with the station and he was ready to go on the air Aug. 25. "Then boom-I got blindsided with this [the missing equipment]." Hammon said he was angry the equipment had apparently been mistreated and that no one had kept track of it. "It bothers me they could store equipment and not take care of it. It seems they had a total disregard for the equipment."

He also said "The State of Nebraska [meaning the University of Nebraskal should fund the station since it's on State of Nebraska property." In Wednesday's meeting, Hammon, with regard to the missing equipment, asked"Who is liable? Who is going to foot the bill?"

Conway estimated that in addition to purchasing new equipment, \$5,000 worth of wiring has to be installed for KBUL to go on the air. Conway told Hammon MBSC was willing to help finance the station. Conway said he is willing to financially go 50/50 with KBUL.

Conway said MBSC expects KBUL to adhere to a top 40 format and its agreement that no profanity or offensive material be played. A discussion ensued between Hammon and Conway over the classification of "alternative" music. Hammon eventually agreed to use the Billboard Top 100 as the playlist for the station.

Hammon also promised KBUL would stand by its profanity bylaws. "If a deejay cusses or swears, they will be pulled from the air," Hammon said. He said he was not worried about this occurring as he would "instill" a sense of responsibility in the would-be deejays.

Conway brought up the question of the station having an advisory board. He said it would continue KBUL's professionalism after Hammon graduated and provide guidance to the student-run station. Hammon said he objected to setting up a board, "They take power away

see KBUL, page 2

Multicultural Affairs' Bradley Resigns

by Heather Hadley

Odra Bradley, director of multicultural affairs at UNO, is resigning June 30.

Bradley would not say, for the record, why he is resigning, but was willing to talk about his time at UNO.

Bradley was hired to work on the retention of students of color in September 1994. At that time, he said, the program would refer students who were either on probation or suspension to Bradley's office and he would try to correct the situation. This system, according to Bradley, was not working well enough and he wanted to reach these students earlier in their school career.

Bradley said he improved the retention program by reaching the student midway through the semester, but found in some cases at that point there was no way to bring some grades up. Bradley said he again improved the retention program.

Now, Bradley said, every student who is associated with the retention program has direct contact throughout their entire college stay. This sets up an early warning system to detect problems. Now teachers know when they have these students in their classes and are encouraged to send reports on the students' status. "We want to make this as easy as possible," Bradley said. "This eliminates there being a point when it is too late to help save a student's grade."

When problems arise, the office of multicultural affairs' team of experts steps in, Bradley said. It is their

see BRADLEY, page 2

UNO Hosts Children's Literature Conference Brings Artists from Around the World

by Jim Rejda

"The Child and the City," the related to children's literature," child, at the Children's Literature Children's Literature Association's 24th Annual International Conference, was held at UNO's Peter Kiewit Conference Center June 19-

The conference featured artists and scholars from as far away as New Zealand and Japan and as close as Omaha and Plattsmouth said Mary K. Stillwell, a UNO English graduate student. "There were a number of graduate students, as well as many established writers, artists, scholars, teachers, and librarians who represented many disciplines

Stillwell said.

"Children's literature has likely touched all our lives," said Stillwell, who presented a paper at the conference. "The bookmobile that parked the third Saturday of each month under the sign of the green dinosaur at the Sinclair station at 50th and Underwood was a big part of my young life. Little did I know then that my walk up the hill every few weeks when I was seven would lead, many years later, to giving a paper on 'The Boxcar Children,' a book that captured my interest as a

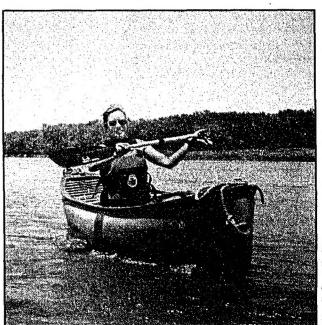
Conference," Stillwell said.

Susan Naramore Maher, associate professor of English at UNO, served as conference chair. According to Maher, children's literature has undergone a change over the last thirty years.

"From the late 60's to the 80's there was a tendency to focus on the negative in literature, families falling apart among the topics," Maher said. "We do have crumbling inner cities and there was some worry that

see LITERATURE, page 2

Gently Down the Stream...



Outdoor Venture Center leader Liz Vercrussye paddles down the Elkhorn River. A dozen canoers took part in this five and a half hour trip.

Literature Conference Brings Artists from Around the World from page 1

negative criticism would consume the conference, but we found that people are finding beauty in the city and the people."

Organizing the conference required much planning according to Maher. "First we had to put in a bid and the Children's Literature Association had to accept," Maher said. "We had to start organizing speakers for the event two years in advance. We like to get a balance of speakers."

A wide variety of topics relating to the conference's theme were presented, including "The Child and the City; The Black Urban Child," "Utopian Studies and Children's Literature," and "Expanding the Urban Child's Imagination." Some of the speakers included Pat Cummings, Nancy Duncan, Olga Loya, Margaret Read MacDonald, Idu Maduli, Patrick McKissack and Gary Soto.

Soto, the keynote speaker at the conference, is the author of eight poetry collections for adults and has produced films for Mexican American children. His play, "Novio Boy," was performed at the conference for the first time by students from Omaha South High School.

In a conference seminar, UNO English professors, John McKenna and Phil Smith, presented their poetry and photography respectively in "The Child and the City." The art and poetry were on display throughout the conference. Performing for an international audience was an

important aspect of the conference according to Smith and McKenna.

"I would hope that my images and John's poetry, although focusing on a midwestern community, has enough significance to speak to people from other cultures," Smith said. "Although the subject of our work is local, we hope that it possesses some universal appeal." "Presentation at an international conference is an excellent opportu-



Gary Soto, author of eight poetry collections, was the keynote speaker at the 24th Annual International Conference of the Children's Literature Association. Several UNO faculty members also took part in the conference.

nity to reach a broader and more diverse audience for my work," said McKenna. "It's been an interesting experience and an honor to be highlighted alongside a number of truly distinguished writers."

Smith also commented on the significance of studying children's literature. "The conference theme, 'The Child and the City,' I believe examines a subject of great significance, one which I feel deserves greater study," Smith said. "We often study what is wrong with kids today, their crimes and misdemeanors, yet we need to also examine what it's like to be a child in an urban center today. Often the answers to what problems kids have to deal with, may be centered in the kind of pressures and issues they have to face in an urban environment."

Stillwell said one of the highlights of the conference was an informal chat with journal editors. "This was an opportunity to become more familiar with the various publications, to learn what types of materials they are looking for, and to determine manuscript requirements and average turn-around time." Stillwell said the conference was very rewarding to students and to "anyone who has the good fortune to tuck a child into bed from time to time."

The Children's Literature Association 25th Annual International Conference will be held next year in Paris.

High Court Strikes Down Decency Act

by James Vicini Reuter

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court extended free-speech rights to cyberspace in a historic ruling Thursday, striking down a federal law that restricted indecent pictures and words on the Internet computer network.

The nation's highest court dealt the Clinton administration a major defeat by declaring unconstitutional the law that bans the dissemination of sexually explicit material to anyone younger than 18.

The high-profile case marked the first time the Supreme Court granted full constitutional free-speech protections under the First Amendment to the giant worldwide network of linked computers used by tens of millions of people.

The justices by a 7-2 vote affirmed a ruling by a three-judge federal court in Philadelphia that all key parts of the Communications Decency Act violate free-speech rights, amounting to illegal government censorship.

"Notwithstanding the legitimacy and importance of the congressional goal of protecting children from harmful materials, we agree ... that the statute abridges 'freedom of speech' protected by the First Amendment," Justice John Paul Stevens said for the court majority in the 40-page opinion.

The law, signed by President Clinton in 1996 as part of a telecommunications overhaul, barred the distribution to minors of indecent or "patently offensive" materials on the Internet. Violators faced a maximum \$250,000 fine and two years in prison.

The law defined indecent as anything that "depicts or describes in terms patently offensive, as measured by contemporary community standards, sexual or excretory ac

see COURT, page 8

Multicultural Affairs' Bradley Resigns

from page 1

job to find out what the student needs. "Does the student need a tutor? We will get them one" Bradley said. "Or perhaps they need some other help that is related to child care. Whatever the problem is, we want to try to figure out a way to keep this student in school. That is the most important thing."

Bradley said without the help of departments like financial aid and the registrar's office, these students would not have as many opportunities for staying at UNO. Bradley said they are a great group of people and should be commended for their work with the students.

Bradley also worked with a group made up of people off campus, called Alternatives in Retention. This group deals with three campuses: UNO, Metropolitan Community College and the College of St. Mary. "This community help is invaluable to us," Bradley said. "This helps us maintain the 284 students on the retention list." Bradley said these students are high-risk students because they are often the first in the family to go to college. Others are single mothers and some have just had a rough go of it. "The tools we teach these students are things many of them have not learned and so we guide them through the process," Bradley said.

Bradley said he would like to improve and expand the program. "We know it works. Why not apply it to more students? We could reach so many more," Bradley said.

"The hardest part of leaving a place you have been for a long time is leaving the



Odra Bradley

people. And the people here and in admissions are the greatest," Bradley said. "I guess my work will never be done here and that is very hard too."

"Dr. Bradley is like a father figure to the students of color on campus," said LeTosha Zenee Dale, president of the African American Organization. "He is also a respectable man who takes the time to help the students that have needed it. These are two characteristics that a lot of UNO's faculty and staff lack. He will definitely be missed."



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How Familiar Is The Pill? Sexual Harassment:

by Linda Black

Mention "the pill" to almost anybody, and they'll know exactly what you're talking about. Of the thousands of oral medications, people associate "the pill" with just one product, the tiny white tablet that, according to Vern and Bonnie Bullough, changed the lives of women forever.

"The development of oral contraceptives marked the beginning of a new era for women, finally putting an end to the long-held belief that biology was destiny, thereby giving women more effective control over their physiological processes," wrote the Bulloughs in their 1990 book, "Contraception: A Guide to Birth Control Methods."

Research on hormones actually began in the 30s, to find a cure for women's menstrual pain (dysmenorrhea). In 1936 the hormone progesterone was given to rats. Scientists discovered the birth control aspect of the hormone when the rats did not ovulate.

But animal hormones were expensive, and tended to be rejected by human immune systems. Then a substance in the Mexican yam that could be converted to progestin (synthetic progesterone) was discovered. With this knowledge a synthetic was also found for another hormone — estrogen.

In 1960 the birth control pill made history by being the first contraceptive approved by the U.S. government.

Oral contraceptives ensure almost 100 percent effectiveness if taken regularly, according to the Bulloughs. Inconsistent use and some antibiotics may hinder the success rate. The lower-dose pills must be taken at exactly the same time everyday or the chance of pregnancy goes up.

Dr. Samuel A. Pasquale and Jennifer Cadoff, authors of "The Birth Control Book," say women should be on the lowest dose pill that is acceptable for them. "As the estrogen dose goes down, side effects go down as well, but at the same time pregnancy rates start to edge up."

So how does this combination of hormones guard so effectively against pregnancy? Kathryn Swenson Tollefsrud, director of education at Planned Parenthood in Omaha, said the hormones fool the body into thinking it is pregnant. The body gets a signal once a month to release an egg, but the pill overrides this signal.

The pill has two back-up actions as well, Tollefsrud explains. "One of the back-up actions is to increase the cervical mucus which is present in the body. Sometimes it's thick and more impenetrable—so sperm can't get through."

The other back-up action is the creation of an inhospitable environment in the uterus. "So even if an egg were to be released [and] get through, the lining of the uterus is not building up enough to receive the fertilized egg," Tollefsrud said, "so it can't be implanted successfully."

But the pill is regarded as a health risk by most women. According to Dr. Howard I. Shapiro, in his book "The New Birth Control Book," the 1988 Gallup poll showed 31 percent of 1,036 women polled believed the pill posed a cancer risk, 75 percent thought the pill was a health risk and two-thirds thought taking the pill was more dangerous than being pregnant.

Shapiro wrote that the opposite was true. "For ev-

Theft Keeps KBUL Off Air for Now

from page 1

from the students." Hammon said he agreed that some sort of governing body would be necessary.

Near the end of the meeting, Conway suggested KBUL make a list of the equipment it needs and submit it to him. He said he also wanted to clearly define the duties of MBSC, the Department of Communication and KBUL. Conway said the Student Center wanted to help the radio station, but "it is a lot cheaper and easier for us to just plug into Sweet 98 [a local commercial top 40 station]."

All in attendance agreed the station will not be on the air Aug. 25, as previously announced.

ery woman admitted to a hospital as a result of the pill, five others actually avoid the need for hospital care because of the pill."

Patty Sauter, a nurse practitioner at Planned Parenthood in Omaha, mentioned a few individuals who should not be on the pill like women who have a strong family history of heart disease.

Some individuals may experience an increase in blood pressure. They should be checked before and during their use of the pill. If a woman smokes she is also at greater risk to develop problems because smoking damages the arteries.

Blood clots pose another danger. "The risk of blood clots goes up significantly for all women just after pregnancy, during prolonged bed rest and after major surgery," wrote Pasquale and Cadoff. During this time it is safer to use a different method of birth control, at least temporarily. Even though there is a risk of blood clots, it is lower than the risk during pregnancy, they said.

Dr. Meryl Sevenson, of the University of Nebraska Medical Center, said the pill is one of the safest and most studied medicines in the world, but he agreed with Sauter's list of high-risk patients and added a few of his own. He said people who suffer from Crohn's disease and anyone who has ever had a stroke should not take the pill. He mentioned conditions that signal trouble are a headache that does not go away with medication, intense leg pain and blurred vision, which may signal a vascular change that needs attention.

Sauter said most of the side effects of the pill, such as mood swings, nausea and acne, will disappear after three months or may require changing the dosage.

Positive aspects of the pill, according to Sauter and Sevenson, include a decrease in ovarian and endometrium cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, anemia endometriosis and painful monthly cramps.

One myth surrounding the pill, according to Sauter, is the need for a rest from it. She said a majority of the women who take a break from the pill end up getting pregnant because they do not use another form of contraceptive. "There's no reason you need to go off it to give your body a break because you're on it for 21 days, then off seven days and so your body, in a sense, does get a break."

Pasquale and Cadoff added, "As long as you remain healthy (i.e. you don't develop health problems that make the pill use riskier, such as uncontrolled high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, heart disease), and as long as you don't smoke, most experts now agree that you can safely continue using oral contraceptives until you reach menopause and no longer need birth control."

The pill's popularity is still fairly high even though some women feel it may cause health problems. "According to the Ortho 1995 Annual Birth Control Study, about one in four women (26 percent) who currently uses birth control is on the pill," wrote Pasquale and Cadoff. The pill is used by over 50 million women around the world and more than 16 million in this country, according to the authors.

Brittany, 22, a junior at UNO said the only downside she experienced using the pill is breakthrough bleeding if she does not take the pill at exactly the same time everyday. She said it took a couple of months for her body to get used to the hormones, but now she does not have any side effects.

Another UNO student, senior Kendra, 22, has been taking the pill since she was 13 for ovarian cysts and has never experienced any side effects. Similar positive comments also came from 23-year-old Andrea, a senior at UNO.

Gayle, a 45-year-old housewife and mother of two, had a different experience. "I woke up one Saturday morning. Climbing out of bed I noticed I had a pain in my upper thigh. I got out of bed and I could feel the blood clots, five little hard-like particles."

Gayle had gone on the pill three weeks earlier specifically for menstrual problems. She is now on medication that thins her blood, keeps the clots from moving and any new ones from forming. Gayle said her doctor was surprised, because she has never smoked and she took birth control pills for seven years when she was younger with no problems. Although Gayle had this reaction to the pill, she would still recommend it for her daughter.

Sexual Harassment: It Is Not Just for Heterosexuals Anymore

by Stephen Croucher

Anita Hill and Paula Jones. These two women have something in common. Both filed sexual harassment charges against very important men.

Most people think they know what sexual harassment is. We see it in the headlines everyday. And many of us have been or will be a victim of sexual harassment.

But some people think it only happens between men and women. This is not true according to Joseph Oncale, an offshore oil rig employee.

Oncale is filing a lawsuit against his employer, Sundowner Offshore Services Inc. He claims, that while spending several months with an all-male crew on an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico, he suffered sexual attacks and threats from his supervisor and two co-workers. Oncale says the men exposed themselves, grabbed him and threatened him with rape.

Oncale's lawsuit charges Sundowner Offshore Services Inc. with tolerance towards a hostile work environment. This sort of tolerance is sexual harassment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VII makes it illegal for an employer to discriminate "because of" an individual's sex, race, religion or national origin.

Oncale's suit

Both the Federal District Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, both in New Orleans, dismissed Oncale's lawsuit. The justices dismissed the lawsuit because they believe the law does not apply to same-sex sexual harassment, since in their opinions it does not exist.

Oncale's attorneys urged the United States Supreme Court to make a decision on Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services Inc. His attorneys believe Title VII does include same-sex sexual harassment. The Supreme Court now has the case, and will make a decision next session.

Previous Supreme Court decisions defined sexual discrimination to include working in a hostile work environment scarred by intimidation, ridicule and insult on account of sex.

This case is not an isolated incident, but there is no clear interpretation within the court system on this issue.

In a separate case, the Eighth Circuit Court in St. Louis ruled Title VII does not require the harasser and the victim to be of different

Two Federal appeals courts, the Sixth Circuit in Cincinnati, Ohio and the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Virginia, ruled that heterosexual men can sue if their harasser is homosexual. For this court, sexual harassment does not and can not occur between heterosexual people. Oncale's or his harasser's sexual orientation were not defined in the lawsnit

Beatrice Dohrin, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, a gay rights advocacy group, said in a previous interview with the New York Times that, "Sexual harassment should be defined by the behavior involved and not by the sexual orientation of the individuals." She said her organization would file a brief urging the Supreme Court to rule broadly.

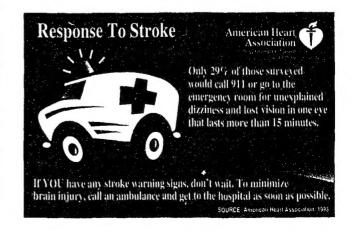
Should a man or woman be able to file sexual harassment charges against a person of the same sex? Several UNO students and faculty voiced their opinions on this controversial issue.

Dena Boroff, recruiting coordinator for the UNO Career Center said, "We should be able to file charges against a person of the same sex, because sexual harassment is sexual harassment, regardless of gender."

Helen Evans, a junior English major, agreed. "We should be able to file charges against people who are the same gender as we are," she said. "You can be just as sexually offended by someone of the same sex. Sexual harassment is sexual harassment. Gender does not matter when someone is sexually offended."

Hyrum Wilson, a sophomore engineering major, said similar things. "Who cares if you're harassed by a male or female, and you're a male? You are still being harassed."

Until the United States Supreme Court makes its final decision, Oncale and others like him will have to wait to see if they are entitled to their day in court.



Gateway. Opinion

Is there a limit on who has next?

Gender equity: the idea that women should be allowed to do whatever a man can do and receive equal pay for doing so. A good idea? You betcha.

Female accountants should rake in the fees at tax time just like the male accountants. Female journalist should be rewarded equally for their muckraking efforts. Women doctors should be able to charge just as much for an exam (and head to the golf course just as often) as male doctors.



Though the issue of gender equity does apply to and is still being fought for in these fields, nowhere does gender equity stir the feminist rallying cry these days as it does in sports.

Title IX, an age-old ruling which has only recently been enforced to its fullest extent, has declared that all opportunities available to men on a college campus should also be available to the women of that campus. Women football players? Not hardly.

The application of this rule has come to mean that for every men's athletic scholarship available there must be a corresponding women's scholarship in a corresponding women's sport. So, if there are 85 scholarships available through the men's football program, there must be 85 scholarships made available to women on that campus through a number of sports teams.

Now, none of this would bother me if it weren't for two little facts.

First, college athletics has become a money-intensive operation. Most programs have budgets in the hundreds of thousands of dollars per sport. And some

sports run in the millions of dollars for their budgets.

Second, there are no revenue-generating women's sports programs in this country. None. Revenue-generating sports can be counted on two fingers. Men's football and men's basketball. And, because these programs are revenue generating at most schools it is their income which produces the money for non-revenue-generating sports like women's volleyball, men's golf and

women's lacrosse.

Title IX has become the bit-thehand-that-feeds-you policy of college athletics. Since the broader interpretation of Title IX has come into play cut backs have been forced in the revenue generating sports to give scholarship parity to women.

If Title IX was truly about equality in college sports, women would be forced to try out for men's teams

to compete for scholarships. After all, gender equity should be about equal pay for equal performance not a lesser performance.

If you don't believe that women's athletics is a lesser product then I invite you to look at the quality of play in the much-hyped WNBA which "got next" last week.

In the leagues' first week of games there have been only two teams to shoot over 50 percent from the field (Houston, 30-54 vs. Cleveland on June 21 and Charlotte 31-57 vs. Sacramento on June 26). In fact, in their first week the league shot .410 from the field and committed 490 turnovers against 375 assists. Meanwhile the league's average attendance of just over 10,600 during its inaugural week does not bode well for its future.

Like the ladies playing in college athletics, the WNBA is backed by a financially solvent male athletic program: the NBA. The marketing line for the WNBA is "We Got Next." But the big question is: how long can the men afford to let them hold the court?

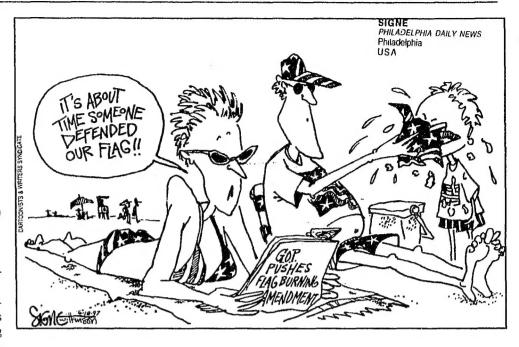
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A day of worship: July fourth

opinion by Ron Larson

The Fourth of July High Holy Days fast approach. In a delirium of nationalistic passion, Americans are busily unfurling flags, searching for beer taps, burnishing BBQ grilles, and stockpiling Black Cats and Cherry Bombs.

Main Streets will sport parades. Politicians will deliver gaseous stemwinders. Shamans of all flavors will pontificate on the seemingly inseparable tandem of Gawd-n-Country. Old Glory will snap in the American breeze. Lumps will rise in throats. Tears will flow.

And I don't understand the whole deal.

Now calm down. Don't burst an artery or something. You see, I'm honorably retired from the Marines after 20 years service. I was a basic rifleman in the pay of Uncle Sam. I've raised and saluted the American flag more times than I can count. I've marched in dozens of honor guards. I've genuflected to more patriotic icons than most of you will in your entire lives. I have earned the right to dissent, while most Americans take that prerogative as their birthright.

What, precisely, don't I understand about July Fourth and the attendant frenzy? The irrationality of patriotism. Nationalism. Pride in one's country. Whatever term we use.

Nationality is, generally, an accident of birth, timing, and geography. Taking pride in your country of origin is like taking pride in having blue eyes. You don't choose either. They just are.

Pride in our ancestor's accomplishments is also nonsensical. We don't have much to do with those, either. And an objective review of our history reyeals both triumph and tragedy. If we take pride in the Constitution, we must also realize that its primary author was a slave holder. If we take pride in the Bill of Rights, we must also recognize it was largely inapplicable to Native Americans, African Americans and, practically-speaking, for many Americans to this day. If we take pride in our WWII victories, we must also remember the Wounded Knee and Mai Lai Massacres. If we take pride in our freedoms, we must also recall the McCarthy hearings and the internment of Japanese-Americans. We have just as much to deplore in our history as to celebrate. That is not "seeing-the-glasshalf-empty." That is reality.

Many say the Fourth of July is a time to proffer thanks to all the martyrs who have died in the defense of liberty. Well, sorry, but that's a useless endeavor. They're dead. Will they shout, en masse, from the grave? "Hey, no problem. You're welcome!" Doubtful.

No, I'm not thankful to them. I regret their deaths. Most, if we could ask, would have preferred living to dying a premature death on some foreign shore. And I guarantee that our war dead weren't thinking of the Red, White and Blue when they expired. No. Their last thoughts were of their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons, wives, husbands, lovers, or friends.

Orators, this time of year, often wax hyperbolic

over America, "the land of the free and the home of the brave," the greatest country ever on the face of the earth. Such arrogance! From experience, I can report that this typically American conceit wears a bit thin beyond our borders. And, of course, the Romans, and British, and countless others, have thought similarly. Perhaps, before we ooze hubris over perceived American supremacy, we'd do well to consider the Chinese, who've had a common culture for a few thousand years. We've reached only a couple hundred and counting. Could we be a tad premature in our unseemly crowing?

Our Fourth of July fervor helps inculcate the next generation with an incendiary, lifelong, unexamined, America-love-it-or-leave-it mentality. It doesn't help when most states, Nebraska included, require elementary school children sing nationalistic songs, recite the anachronistic Pledge of Allegiance, and be taught that America is the best country in the world. Sowing the seeds of future wars, we churn out goose-stepping little automatons who grow up entirely too willing — even eager — to serve as cannon fodder at the behest of some old bastard with a John Wayne complex.

Many readers have, by now, become thoroughly upset over my thoughts. I understand. You've been taught, literally since birth, that Mom, Apple Pie, and the American Way are a holy trinity. You've been indoctrinated at every level with the idea that patriotism is desirable and that the American Flag is made of sacred cloth. (Witness the proposed constitutional amendment to ban flag desecration. Surely Congress can find a more pressing issue to screw up.) Many of you would literally smack someone who failed to stand for the National Anthem. Congratulations. You're exactly what the government wants. You've bought it all.

The United States, like all nations, revolves around the premise that the state reigns supreme over the individual. And the state can force you to die for it — war. Or confiscate your property — eminent domain. Or filch your money for purposes you do not support — taxes. Or restrict your freedom to pursue happiness in the way you see fit — "vice" laws. And so on. I don't buy it anymore.

I'm not asking anyone to refrain from celebrating the fourth. As countries go, America is as good as most, and better than many. And if you're looking for a party excuse, it's a good enough reason. Anyway, at this stage of human development, we can't really escape the tentacles of a State. We're not yet allowed to be stateless persons, merely citizens of the world. Countries are jealous and you must belong to one. For now.

So wave your flags if you must. But also realize that other countries have much to recommend them. Understand that the promise of America has never been fulfilled. Temper that patriotic enthusiasm with the sober realization that our ideals still lag behind our reality. Think, just a little bit, please.

Oh, yeah. I love burgers well done. I love bottle rockets. Any beer is fine. Happy Fourth of July.

Festival Offers Opportunity To See Historic Architecture



Among the stops on the Sixteenth Street Showcase was the Westin Aquila Hotel. The courtyard pictured left is one of the building's most striking features. The tour of historic buildings along Omaha's sixteenth street was a new addition to the 23-year-old Summer Arts Festival.

hoto by Renee Ryan

by Renee Ryan

This year's Summer Arts Festival had a new attraction, The Sixteenth Street Showcase. The tour consisted of eight buildings of historic value in downtown Omaha.

The first building was the Omaha Building at 1650 Farnam St. The building was built in 1888-89, costing \$750,000. In 1909, the Omaha National Bank purchased the building and it became the Omaha Building. Although is was Omaha's first 10-story building, it has more attention to balance of line mass and projections. The architecture was among the last of the buildings to make use of massive masonry building walls. The area for public tours was the Atrium with a sky roof and a four-level spiral staircase. The exterior of the building has a huge bronze eagle that was moved to the Woodman of the World Building and returned to the Omaha Building in May 1997.

The Brandeis Building at 200 South 16th St. was the second stop. Opened in 1906, it was a main focal point of retail activity in

downtown Omaha. The Brandeis store once had the longest retail aisle in the world and was among the first buildings in Omaha to have revolving doors. The building cost 650,000 to build and is eight stories high, one block long and one half block wide. The style is Renaissance Revival by architect John Latenser, who also designed the Douglas County Courthouse and Central High School. The main area of interest is in the first floor dining area with a fountain and cut glass partitions.

The Farnam Building located at 1603 Farnam St. is 14-stories tall and opened as First National Bank in 1917. The building features a U-shaped plan with a "U" opening in the main entry that creates the illusion of two towers. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The tour showed a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom apartment. The apartments were nicely decorated and well kept but quite small. The view from each was wonderful but rent ranges from

\$465 to \$610 for a one-bedroom and \$800 to \$895 for a two-bedroom.

The Securities Building, at 305 South 16th St., was designed by FA Henninger in 1916 and construction costs were \$200,000. The building was composed of fireproof materials such as limestone and terra cottta and reinforced concrete. Prior to renovation in 1996, the building had been vacant for some time. The Sullivanesque-style was borrowed heavily from the American architect Louis Sullivan. The design included columns, pilasters, a projecting cornice, and two carved medalions on the second floor. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. The tour focused on the apartments available in the building. They were much more open and spacious than the Farnam Building. The use of white and marble window seats gives a fresh feeling to the apartments.

The Redick Towers at 1504 Harney St. was built in the 1870s in late Art Deco style. The

building was vacant throughout the 1970s and 1980s and was renovated to a hotel in 1988. It was reburbished in 1996. The structure is significant due to its use of American Perpendicular style. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1984. The tour focused on a guest room, a suite, and the executive suite. The rooms were well decorated but not terribly large. The restaurant was beautiful and had a warm atmosphere.

The Orpheum Tower at 405 South 16th St. was constructed in 1910 as Omaha's first skyscraper. In 1986 the offices above the theater were converted to apartments. The building showed Second Rennaisance Revival style with gold leaf, ivory, mirrors and carved gilded furniture. The structure was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1973. The tour showed the penthouse floor of the tower. It was very lavish and spacious with deep rich colors. The living room had a grand piano and an elaborate bar. The design was uncluttered Art-Deco.

Kensington Towers located at 505 South 16th St. was built by Omaha businessmen in 1919. Once the Hill Hotel, now it is used for apartments. The building exhibited Georgian Revival characteristics. Designers John and Alan McDonald also designed the Joslyn Art Museum and Joslyn Mansion. The structure was placed on The National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The tour focused on a one-bedroom apartment. The dwelling was small yet cozy and the lobby of the building had an ornate entrance and stairway to the second floor.

The Westin Aquila at 1615 Howard St. is a unique structure that occupies a half block. The building was designed in Neo-Classical style. The hotel was in a U-shape focusing on a beautiful outdoor courtyard. The courtyard was complete with a goldfish pool, stone paths and well-pruned trees and shrubs. The tour showed the presidential suite complete with a loft, guest rooms with marble sinks, the executive suite with an upstairs and the Amadeus restaurant with deep rich blue de-

All of the buildings had volunteers to lead guests through and the tour provided festival goers a welcome relief from the heat.

Chancellor Weber Made Difference at UNO

"I was impressed right from the start in terms of his ability to bring about consensus and to enlist support and cooperation from a lot of people with strongly held and potentially conflicting points of view."

--Robert Schmidt, associate professor of physics

"Some people think of him as a 'bricks and mortar' kind of chancellor. But the truth is he's a real people person and he interacts well with a variety of people around campus."

--Bill Blizek, professor of philosophy

"I remember what he contributed to the arts at UNO. It was good to see a chancellor who supported every aspect of the university."

--Brandon Steenson, speaker of the student senate



"It was so nice to have a chancellor who was so affable, genuine, open and accessible."

--Vance Valerio, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Development



"I remember I ran up to him when I was running for homecoming queen, gave him my button and asked him to vote for me. He looked a like he didn't know what to say. I told him I'd vote for him if he voted for me. He smiled and said, 'Ok.'"

-- Lucy Garza, UNO student

"Witty, generous, fun - a great boss."
--Sally Rasmussen, secretary, chancellor's office





Newest Batman Installment Does Not Fly

review by Joel Stevens

Batman movies have become their own cliché with predictably silly plots, big money opening weekends and suitable sinister villains. "Batman and Robin" is no different from its predecessors. It's a great big comic book with new Batman George Clooney and an all-star cast.

This Batman scenario has the new caped crusader doing battle against the evil Mr. Freeze (Arnold Schwarzenegger in a 60 pound plastic costume of glowing lights) and beautiful, and equally evil, botanist Poison Ivy (Uma Thurman) who's kiss is literally deadly. Like the previous Batman movies the eccentric villains team-up to bring chaos and general evil to Gotham City and Commissioner Gordon (Pat Hingle). Freeze, who at one point actually says "the iceman cometh" as a one-liner introduction, wants to, well, freeze Gotham City (and get his wife out of her cryogenic state). Ivy wants to kill all animals (including the humans like Batman and Robin she attracts like flies) for her new kind of plant life to takeover. To the rescue swing Batman and Robin, with the latest crime fighting addition, Batgirl (Alicia Silverstone), to

Clooney is the kind of actor that combines the goody-goodness of Tom Hanks and the edge of Nicholas Cage. He is the proverbial "good guy" actor with real talent. In most of the roles he plays (especially his Dr. Ross role on NBC's "ER"), he is completely believable not because of his strict adherence to some method, but rather because Clooney just is what he says he is. He likes being Batman, fighting crime and wheeling around in the slick, new batmobile with trusty sidekick Robin. He looks like he's having fun throwing quips (he actually says to Robin at one point "That's why Superman works alone"). He "Bat-a-rangs" at bad guys instead of scowling like previous Batman's Michael Keaton and Val Kilmer. Clooney may be the best Batman thus far but the remainder of the cast lacks Clooney's intensity (maybe it's the rubber suit). He plays a role that doesn't call for much of a performance beyond a certain degree of believable action hero athleticism and a strong chin. Clooney has both.

The best thing about the "Batman" series is that it's campy and it knows it; and that was entertaining the first time and even the second time with straightforward good versus evil stories. Batman is the quintessential anti-hero and the bad guys are always some former genius/madman gone astray now seeking some sinister revenge on Gotham City.

Depression.
A flat in chemistrs, not character.

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"Batman and Robin" is no different. Sure Clooney's Batman is considerably lighter with Robin at his side but Silverstone's Batgirl seems more a teen audience demographic gimmick than legitimate casting. "Batman and Robin" plays to the audience – the cast, the top 40 soundtrack, the utility belt gadgets, the slick special effects, a production design that looks like Fritz Lang meets Salvador Dali with gothic city scapes. It all seems a process to entertain without really saying anything. "Batman and Robin" is a comic book of a movie because that's all it wants (or needs really) to be successful.

Since the original Batman debuted in 1989 to a huge success at the box office and the next two sequels did nearly the same, there has been a suspicion on my part that the only thing keeping this series alive is the box office. The bad guys seem to be the only new thing the film makers try in Batman. Each film tries to upstage the previous with its villains (none of which have seemed to capture the vitality of Jack Nicholson's Joker in the original) without substantially adding any kind of depth to the Batman character or to the entirely predictable plots. It's the heights of mediocrity which Batman achieves. Sure it's entertaining and you might even enjoy yourself while watching it but, when it's over, you leave the theater feeling the same way you did when you went in: waiting to see a great movie.

Underground Sounds Madder, Off Deep End

review by Ben Thompson

This week "Sounds of the Underground" brings you Shallow and Madder Rose.

Out of the Deep End

Shallow might be the Midwest's best kept secret. The Lawrence, Kan. band is back with their second full-length album for Zero Hour Records. "High Flyin' Kid Stuff' highlights everything the band is, with their melodic pop in a dreamy rage chipping away at the sonic fence that surrounds it.

"Light Saber and the Video Game God" is not only one of the best song titles I've ever heard, but the gradual ascension inside the song keeps the praise coming. It begins as harmless as a light spring rain. It gradually coaxes you outdoors, then just when you're getting ready to venture off the porch, a complete downpour showers on your parade.

"Studio 54 (It Must Be Nice)" begins with a funky disco-type of beat, before Shallow does what it does best, blows your socks off with a melody that, from a distance, appears to be a fuzzy, tripped up sound. As it draws you near, you see the layers of fuel that keep Shallow burning.

At times Shallow's sound is as well-textured as My Bloody Valentine or Medicine was in their best days. But most of the time Shallow just chips away at that crystal barrier that keeps them from the glory they deserve.

My first impression of Shallow came when I bought the band's first album, "3-D Stereo Trouble." The music was an immediate blow to the psyche, but the first feeling you get from singer Julie Shields is overwhelming. Shields voice is almost like a trembling little girl. Her range is high enough that it almost sounds as perfect as it is angelic (picture Mary Timony of Helium hitting her high notes while her arms get twisted into pretzels).

Local music doesn't just struggle in Omaha. Small cities like Lawrence have buzzing bands that can do anything the locals in Omaha can, And Shallow is a firm cut

above. It shows what can happen with a little magic, a lot of talent and great music.

I'm Mad As A Rose

When I bought Madder Rose's new album, "Tragic Magic," I had no idea what I was in for. Sure I'd heard a bit of their music before, but it had been a couple years and that was my MTV-impression age. The last thing I remember hearing about Madder Rose was the tour they went on to support their last album. That tour was the beginning of stardom for the other two bands on the bill (Veruca Salt and Hole), so I figured this album could be as good as any other. It was even better.

There's a very dreamy, '80s feel to "Tragic Magic," but with '90s instruments. The music is a good definition of synth pop with a shiny edge. In every song, you tend to find yourself humming along before the song has permission for liftoff. And one listen hooks you by ear, knowing before too long your mind will follow.

"Float To The Top" is possibly the best song on "Tragic Magic" with a beautiful rhythm, a full beat and lyrics you can sing just by listening. "Delight's Pool" is a wild ride through a desert where you feel death upon you as you think about swimming in "Delight's Pool."

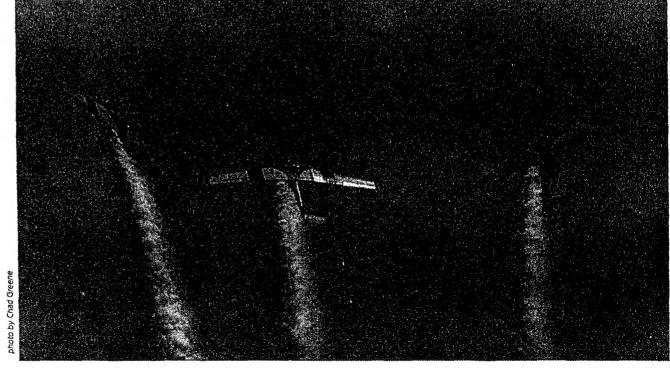
"Peter And Victor" might be the herbal essence that pushes this album into bliss. An acoustic guitar and Billy Cote's story bring a firm sense of sorrow and happiness together to tell a tale of two friends who got into a bigger fight than they could handle.

Madder Rose, the name is easy enough to remember. So why did it take so long to realize this band is as good as they are? Well, at least I won't have this problem next time.

Who Do You Want

If you would like to see me review something in "Sounds of the Underground," let me know by e-mailing me at 103044.2635@compuserve.com.

Trails in the Sky Above Offutt Air Base



The North American Acrobatic Team put on an aerial display which captivated the sky watchers at Offutt Air Force Base's annual Open House and Air Show.

"Ordinary Fesivals" Actually Unique



photo by Chad Greene

Patrick Widrig (background) and Sara Pearson dance at the Summer Arts Festival in downtown Omaha Saturday. Widrig and Pearson, both from New York, choreographed "Ordinary Festivals," which features dancers from Omaha's Moving Company dance troupe.

by Tamra Willett-Johnson

Performed by local dancers, including five from UNO's Moving Company, "Ordinary Festivals" amused the crowd at the Summer Arts Festival last weekend. This unique performance included dances with fruit, vegetables, plates and an oriental rug.

The piece, choreographed by New York City dancers Sara Pearson and Patrik Widrig, has been performed all over the world. It made its American debut Friday night at the festival.

While Italian folk music played in the background, dancers tossed oranges, speared them with knives, and rolled them between dancing feet. Plates piled high with corn, bell peppers, radishes, onions, carrots and many other veggies were brought onto the stage by a somber parade of dancers. The plates with their produce gave an air of an outdoor farmer's market to the otherwise bare stage.

The dancers dressed simply; long, dark dresses for the women and black pants, vest and a white shirt for the men. Their barefeet also gave the look of a country village's festival.

"Ordinary Festivals" began with a lone dancer menacingly stalking the stage while tossing an orange back and forth-much as a gangster would do his lucky coin. The rest of the dancers joined her and the piece took on a carefree appearance. The playful mood climaxed when the rug was brought on stage and-much to the crowd's delight-the dancers jumped, tumbled, somersaulted over every inch. They appeared to be naughty children, breaking the house rules while the parents are away.

Another impressive set involved intricate choreography and seemed to represent a ritual of some sort-perhaps the villagers thanking the goddess for the great harvest. While on their knees, the dancers moved in unison as they saluted, rolled their heads and bodies and pounded the floor.

High energy was evident throughout. Skipping, leaping, spinning plates, and performing intricate moves in triads with oranges, the dancers-despite the high heat and humidity—never flagged. At times looking like a square dance called by a gym coach, "Ordinary Festivals" combined the moves of modern dance with the simple athletic moves of children. The crowd was supportive, cheering on the dancers throughout the performance.

Läuren Kotulak, associate director of the Moving Company, said there are open tryouts for the company every fall with students and alumni welcome. She said the dance company, which has been a part of UNO for 70 years, gives formal and informal performances every year.

Don't

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"Speed 2" Faster by Land Than Sea

review by Joel Stevens

The summer movie season is never short on two things: action movies and sequels to action movies. "Speed 2 Cruise Control" is both and a whole lot of silly plot in this follow-up to the highly original 1994 action movie "Speed."

Sandra Bullock reprises her role as the wise-cracking, cuteas-can-be heroine Annie (is it me or does she always play this character). This time, Annie is partnered with a new, dark haired daredevil SWAT policeman named Alex (Jason Patric). Annie and Alex have been together a short time (she thought he was a beach cop) and she isn't quite sure if she wants another SWAT boyfriend (like Keanu Reeves in the first film).

The beautiful thing about the original "Speed" was that it was a standard action movie done in a completely original way. The narrative of "Speed" had a breathtaking, non-stop, pace without sacrificing things like character and a good story. When Annie and Alex take their much-needed vacation on a luxury liner you can expect very little smooth sailing. The problem lies in the role that Willem Dafoe plays as a disgruntled former employee of the cruise line. He is fired after being diagnosed with an incurable disease. The movie does not name the disease, just mentions the treatment requires leeches. Of course, Dafoe's character is a calculating, powerhungry, computer genius with a sinister, if implausible plan. He must first remove most of the passengers and crew, then send the cruise ship on a deadly collision course with an oil tanker. Then he will sneak away with millions of dollars in

jewels from the ship's vault.

Annie and Alex are caught in the middle of another lifethreatening vendetta with a handful of eccentric passengers and a few crewmen.

You can never tell when an action sequel is going to work as well as the original. What Graham Yost's innovative script for "Speed" has is an intensity "Speed 2" can't match no matter how hard director Jan DeBont tries with showy camera work and the performances of Bullock, Patric and Dafoe. "Speed 2: Cruise Control" seems to truly be on cruise control, as if it is only going through the motions of being a good high concept action movie. Yes, it does have an action-filled, nonstop pace, but with such a minuscule story and plot I can only wonder why they thought this was an adequate sequel to "Speed". Maybe Keanu Reeves' bowing out of "Speed 2" had less to do with touring with his band and more to do with

Sure, "Speed 2" has great special effects, plenty of action and chases to go with it and a good cast (Patric is a better actor than Reeves). Yet all of that is not enough. A sequel is meant to show us or take us to a new place that the first film did not. "Speed 2 shows us a new place and even takes us there in a semi-interesting way. What we find when we get there doesn't amount to enough for me to say I'd care to go

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25 Spanish river 29 — the mark

(obeyed) 32 Le Gallienne

35 Composure

38 Racing sled 39 Corn or form

and Gabor



44 Infant food 45 Readies for the drive

for example

- 47 Incense 48 Summer along the Somme
- 49 Short performance 50 Pub potions 51 Cincinnati nine
- 53 Spain's last queen
- (Massenet opera)
- 56 Lock of hair 58 Family circle
- members 62 Confront 65 Greek
- 67 Arthurian woman 68 Great Lake
- 70 Triumphant one 71 Chair
- 72 Tennis division
 - DOWN 1 Coil

- 2 Author Wiesel
- 3 Marshy places 4 Houston pro
- Denominations 6 Oolong 7 Garments
- 8 Bubbly
- 9 Old newspaper section, briefly "That's
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- 18 Grasped 22 Stage show 26 Bestial
- 27 Fail to follow suit 28 Compounds of elements 29 Certain dancer
- 30 Sedative
- 31 Ran off 33 Penn or
- Connery
- 36 Baseball team 37 Apiarist
- T A V A R C E 41 Control straps 43 Baby's place

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- 46 Hides the loot 52 Tankard's kin

N I C H I C V D

- Eyelashes

- 57 Magic charm
- 60 Telegraph
- 61 Ella's forte 62 Not many
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High Court Rules Against Communcatios Decency Act

from page 2

tivities or organs." The law did not target obscenity or child pornography, which already were illegal.

The ruling represented a major victory forthe American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and groups representing libraries, publishers and the computer on-line industry, which brought the lawsuit challenging the law.

Stefan Presser, an ACLU attorney, said "Essentially the Supreme Court of the United States took an idea from the 18th century, that is free speech, and said it has enduring quality, and will extend into the 21st century, because government will not be allowed to censor what's on the Internet."

The Supreme Court said the rapidly growing Internet deserved full First Amendment protection, citing its unique characteristics as a public forum for the exchange of ideas and information.

The high court rejected arguments that the Internet was similar to the television and radio industries, where there has been a history of extensive government regulation and where indecent speech may be restricted.

"The (Communications Decency Act) is a content-based regulation of speech," Stevens said. "The vagueness of such a regulation raises special First Amendment concerns because of its obvious chilling effect on free speech.'

"As a matter of constitutional tradition ...

we presume that governmental regulation of the content of speech is more likely to interfere with the free exchange of ideas than to encourage it," Stevens said.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor agreed that the law was unconstitutional in that it would restrict adults' access to material they otherwise would be entitled to see. Writing for the two, O'Connor said they would invalidate the law only in those circumstances. That part of the court's ruling was unanimous.

But O'Connor said for the two dissenters that she would uphold other restrictions that prohibited the use of indecent speech in communications between an adult and one or more

Critics of the law have said they were other less drastic ways to keep minors from indecent material, especially in view of rapid technological changes.

They said many commercial sites on the Internet that display sexually explicit content already use credit cards and other adult verification devices to screen for age. Chat-room users often set up rules limiting participation

The Justice Department, arguing for the Clinton administration, defended the law, calling the Internet a valuable educational tool and saying children must be protected from harmful material.





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